THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Wednesday, December 13, 2017 $1.50 FACEBOOK.COM/THEPRESSENTERPRISE TWITTER.COM/PECOM_NEWS pe.com

ALABAMA SENATE RACE

JONES WINS IN STUNNING UPSET

Scandal-plagued Roy Moore loses in a state usually solidly behind GOP; the Republican wasn't conceding defeat

By Kim Chandler and Steve Peoples
The Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, ALA. » In a stunning victory aided by scandal, Democrat Doug Jones won Alabama's special Senate election on Tuesday, beating back history, an embattled Republican opponent and President Donald Trump, who urgently endorsed GOP rebel Roy Moore despite a litany of sexual misconduct allegations.

It was the first Democratic Senate victory in a quarter-century in Alabama, one of the reddest of red states, and proved anew that party loyalty is anything but sure in the age of Trump. The Republican loss was a major

JONES » PAGE 2

JOHN BAZEMORE — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doug Jones waves to supporters before speaking during an election night watch party Tuesday in Birmingham, Ala.

'WOULD DO ANYTHING' TWEET STIRS OUTCRY

By Jonathan Lemire and Richard Lardner
The Associated Press

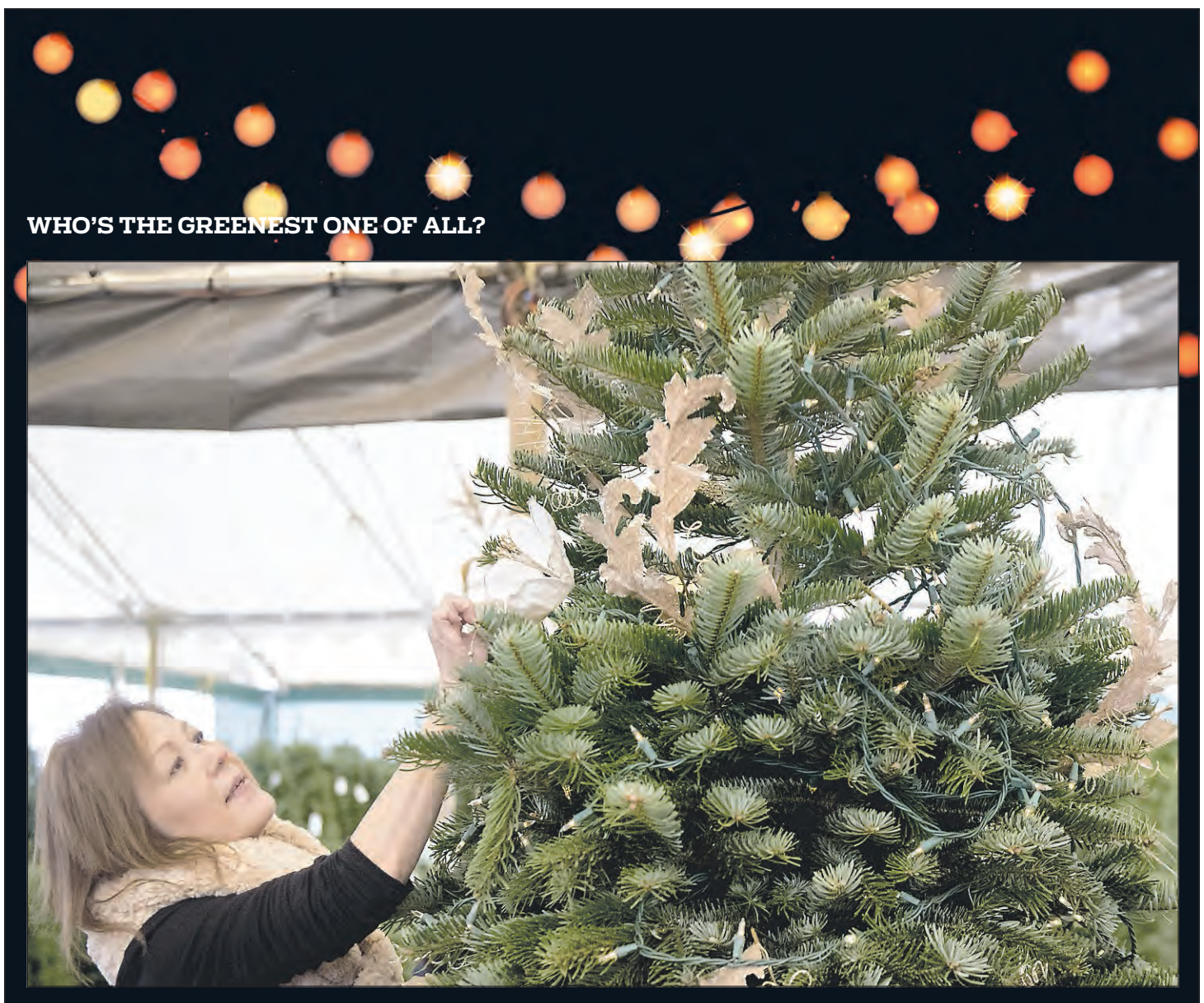
Gillibrand

WASHINGTON » Fending off the renewed focus on sexual harassment allegations against him, President Donald Trump lashed out at Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand on Tuesday, declaring the New York Democrat and frequent presidential critic had come to his office "begging" for campaign contributions and "would do anything" to get them.

A chorus of Democrats accused Trump of insinuations about Gillibrand that were unsavory at best.

Nothing of the kind, retorted White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders. She said "there is no way that this is sexist at all," and she suggested the tweet could be

GILLIBRAND » PAGE 2



WHO'S THE GREENEST ONE OF ALL?

By Lauren Williams » *lawilliams@scng.com* » *@LAWilliams30 on Twitter*

As families pick out wreaths and poinsettias, they're also pondering the centerpiece of their Christmas decorating — the tree — and asking a simple, vaguely familiar question:

Natural or plastic?

If the question hinges on the tree's environmental impact, the answer isn't clear-cut. Experts who study consumer product life cycles — everything from manufacturing and delivery to disposal and decomposition — are split on which kind of Christmas tree leaves the biggest carbon footprint.

"I don't know if it's a one-size-fits-all," said John Bock, who teaches in the environmental studies program at Cal State Fullerton and was founding director of the school's Center for Sustainability.

"A lot of artificial trees are made of PVC (plastic), which doesn't biodegrade," Bock said.

That's bad.

"But a lot of live trees are grown far away," he added.

That's also bad.

TREE » PAGE 4

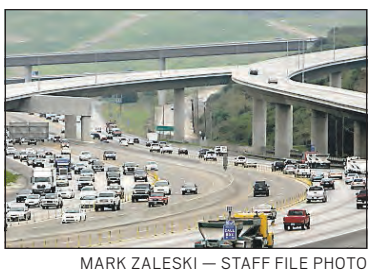
Above: Tanaka Farms employee Donna Okuda spruces up a tree in Irvine.

CINDY YAMANAKA — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Real or fake?

Good luck figuring out which type of tree is best for the environment

TRANSPORTATION



MARK ZALESKI — STAFF FILE PHOTO

Linking the 241 toll road to the 91 Express Lanes might not happen as quickly as some people want.

OCTA votes to delay ramp

Board fears that project to connect 241 toll road and 91 Express Lanes will worsen traffic

By Sean Emery
semery@scng.com

SANTA ANA » County transportation leaders on Monday pushed for a delay on any plans for a $180 million ramp linking the 241 toll road and 91 Freeway Express Lanes over fears the project could increase congestion on both the freeway and the tollway that runs along the middle of it.

The 10-3 vote by the Orange County Transportation Authority's board requests that the Transportation Corridor Agencies — the public agency that runs the 241 toll road and is the driving force behind the proposed connector — slow down on plans for an elaborate ramp connecting the paid traffic lanes.

> **"Why we are taking a pause on this now is beyond me."**
>
> *— Ryan Chamberlain, director of Caltrans' Orange County district*

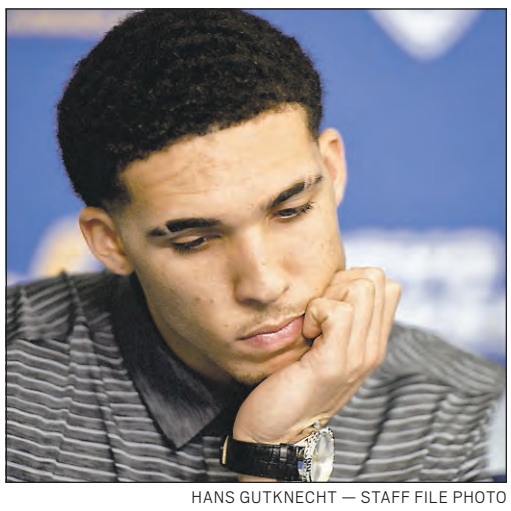
Instead, the OCTA board directed its staffers to work with the Riverside County Transportation Commission to come up with big-picture proposals on how to improve the chronically congested traffic lanes on the 91. The vote follows a recommendation this month by the OCTA's Executive Committee.

A high-ranking official with Caltrans, the state agency with veto power on any freeway traffic project, backed the ramp.

DELAY » PAGE 6

6 THINGS TO KNOW

Ball brothers taking their game overseas — and no, not to China



HANS GUTKNECHT — STAFF FILE PHOTO

LiAngelo Ball never played for UCLA after his arrest for shoplifting in China. He and his younger brother are taking their game overseas.

Staff and news service reports

Chino Hills basketball standouts — and sons two and three of one-man sports-promotion machine LaVar Ball — LiAngelo and LaMelo Ball will play pro basketball with Lithuanian club Prienu Vytautas, team general manager Virginijus Seskus and Ball family agent Harrison Gaines made official Monday.

Yes, you read that right. Lithuania.

The Ball family saga — which includes the infamous international shoplifting incident in China that even looped in President Donald Trump, who wound up in a Twitter skirmish with LaVar Ball — is taking another international turn. Sure, you've got lots of questions. Here are a few answers.

1. Lithuania? Really? Where is that?

Sure, you passed high school geography, so you already knew — or you swiftly Googled it — but, officially: The Republic of Lithuania is one of three

LITHUANIA » PAGE 7

INSIDE

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Thomas fire has burned 680 homes and is at 20 percent containment.

Battle against Thomas wildfire rages on

Crews fought to keep the blaze from neighborhoods as concerns surfaced about more winds later this week. NEWS 3

New Soboba Casino work hits a high point

The tribe has reached a milestone on construction of its casino, hotel, pool, restaurants and a sports bar near San Jacinto. LOCAL 1

WEATHER

81/50
Riverside

Temecula:	Desert:	Mountains:
81/43	80/58	63/41

Full weather forecast » PAGE A7

INDEX

Lottery	A2	Comics	B6
Business	A8	Puzzles	B7
Opinion	A9	Sports	C1
Obituaries	B5	Classifieds	C8

Customer Service: 1-951-368-9000

digitalfirst MEDIA

Volume 131, issue 347